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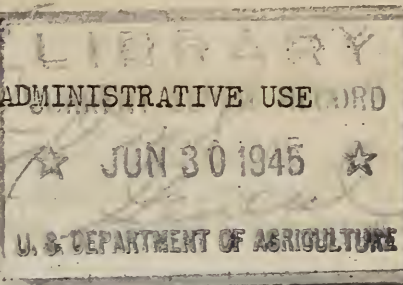
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Marketing Reports Division
821 Market Street, Room 700
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Western Area

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARKET NEWS REVIEWS

Week ending April 27, 1945

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Potatoes - Available supplies of old stock are becoming less as the season advances, and demand is becoming more acute. New crop supplies are not yet heavy enough to relieve the demand. Texas new stock is in limited supply in the Pacific Northwest. In the southwest, Kern County, California, truck movement is steadily increasing. Also the freight car movement for Central California has continued to increase to a total of 260 cars for the past week. Shipments of new crop potatoes for the U.S., to date are 14.5 percent heavier than last year at this time. Retail prices have remained at ceiling in all west coast markets.

Lettuce - Total shipments the past week declined from those of the previous week by 130 cars, due principally to the change in production areas and point of origin.

<u>Shipments compared:</u>	(Cars)	<u>Central Calif.</u>	<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>U.S.</u>			
		<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>		
Past week		1,828	904	57	240	2,007	1,184
Previous week		1,242	372	671	847	2,134	1,252

Peak shipments in March for the U.S. were 264 cars in 1945, 335 cars in 1944, and 286 cars in 1943. In April, peak shipments to the 25th were 408 cars in 1945, 288 cars in 1944, and 298 cars in 1943.

Ceiling fob prices have been consistently maintained, and demand has continued strong. Wholesale prices on Salinas 4 to 5 doz. dry pack stock, in the northwest closed the week at mostly \$3.75 per crate, and on California markets mostly \$3.00 per crate.

Peas - The spring crop has been moving out of the earlier sections at the rate of about 44 cars daily, approximately 10 percent heavier movement than last year. Heaviest movement is anticipated to take place about the middle of May.

Wholesale prices on the western markets closed the week at 7 cents to 9 cents per pound for best stock in bushel hampers.

Watermelons - An amendment (number 34) to MPR 426, places watermelon ceilings for the 1945 crop "the same as those in effect June 29, 1944." OPA states, "the ceiling is \$45 a ton fob loaded cars or trucks through July 4, and \$35 a ton July 5 and after."

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Supplies for civilians remained low, and at what may be considered an all time low, although they remained about adequate for the present demand. Demand for margarine gained sharply toward the end of the week.

WFA has issued a new schedule of dairy production payment rates for the period through March, 1946.

Eggs - The trend in Pacific Coast retail sales the past week was generally downward from the previous week, but was about 15 percent above the same period last year. Demand in the wholesale and retail markets of the western area has continued to exceed available supplies, although receipts have continued to increase. Receipts on three of the main western markets since January first to date, total 954,993 cases, compared with 1,000,850 cases for the same period last year.

Wholesale prices on consumer grade Large A eggs ranged 40 to 40½ cents per dozen on the four western markets at the close of the week. For the same period last year the range was 33½ to 39 cents.

Poultry - Demand for live and dressed poultry has continued to increase, and greatly exceeds available supplies. Hatchery reports indicate larger volume available later in the season, although receipts are at present lower than the previous week. Prices remained at ceiling.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

Cattle - Receipts on the four western markets of San Francisco, Los Angeles, Ogden and North Portland were up the past week, 27 percent above those of a year ago on the same markets, but were 200 head under the 15,444 head of the previous week. The twelve principal markets received 203,600 head the past week, up 3 percent from the previous week, and 4 percent above the same week a year ago.

Wholesale prices declined approximately 25 cents toward the end of the week, but top prices for good to choice fed steers ranged \$15.50 to \$17.40.

Hogs - Demand continues to exceed available supplies. Receipts on the four western markets the past week were 8,845 head, about equal to those of the previous week, but only 46 percent of the receipts of the corresponding week last year. On the twelve principal markets receipts were 200,200 head for the past week, about equal to the final figure for the previous week, but 39 percent of the receipts for the same week a year ago.

Prices continued to press ceiling.

Sheep - Receipts on the four western markets the past week were 10,533 head, up 85 percent from the previous week. On the twelve principal markets 218,100 head were received the past week, down 7 percent from the previous week, but up 50 percent from the same week a year ago.

Demand on the western markets weakened the past week, and prices declined 50 to 75 cents on spring lambs. Drying winds in the interior valley and desert areas injured pastures, reducing the quality of some of the stock as well as increasing pressure to sell.

GRAIN PRODUCTS

Rice - Supplies continued tight, and demand active for available stocks now in the hands of millers and retail dealers. The Office of Supply has instructed its regional offices to apportion their rice purchases and releases on the basis of 70 percent to be taken by the government, including military requirements, and quantities to be exported on approved permits, and 30 percent to be released for civilian trade.

Alfalfa - The market in the southern California area strengthened during the past week, and prices moved up as much as \$1.00 per ton on Number 2 stock. Demand was in excess of available supplies reaching the market. Prices quoted on U.S. Number 1, uncertified, were \$31.00 and \$32.00 per ton, and U.S. Number 2 at \$28.50 to \$29.50 per ton.

Wheat - Demand in the Pacific Northwest was slow, and offerings light during the past week. High protein supplies were in greater demand than other types. Shipping facilities were reported to be slightly improved.

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